



Advertiser photo by Bruce Asato

## Protest backs Anahola activists

About two dozen members and supporters of the Hawaiian sovereignty group Ka Pakaukau gather at the Queen Liliuokalani statue at the State Capitol yesterday to protest the May 4 razing by the state of an illegal home of activists Michael and Sondra Grace at Anahola Beach Park on Kauai. The group says Michael Grace, as a native Hawaiian, has a right to occupy the land.

# Molokai farms suit revived

## Homestead issue of subletting land

By Edwin Tanji

Advertiser Maui County Bureau

WAILUKU, Maui — Four Molokai Hawaiians have renewed a suit to invalidate agreements by which Hawaiian homesteaders with farm lots allow other private farmers on the land.

The suit filed in 2nd Circuit Court revives a 1992 suit that was dismissed by the Hawaii Supreme Court for technical reasons.

The new suit names 32 Hawaiian homesteaders who have third-party agreements with non-Hawaiian farmers.

Alan Murakami, representing

the four Hawaiians who filed the suit, said the previous suit was held invalid partly because it did not name the individual homesteaders who had third-party agreements.

The plaintiffs — farmers Leiff Bush, Martin Kahae and Kelson Poepoe, and homestead applicant Colette Machado — want to force the Hawaiian Homes Commission to fulfill its responsibilities to native Hawaiians, he said.

The suit claims that the third-party agreements violate commission rules prohibiting homestead lessees from subletting their land. The commission also is obligated to reserve use of homestead land exclusively for Hawaiians, the suit says.

Bush, Kahae and Poepoe claim that use of homestead

land by two corporate farmers, Larry Jefts and Hawaiian Research Ltd., damages their ability to farm. They have suffered from pesticide drift caused by the two corporate farmers, they said.

Machado said she is being denied a farm lot when other homesteaders who do not intend to farm their 40-acre lots are allowed to sublet the land to non-Hawaiians.

A Hawaiian Homes official said the department has not been given notice of the suit and cannot comment on it. He expressed surprise since the previous suit was dismissed.

The commission has approved 27 third-party agreements on Molokai and 16 on the Big Island.